

REMARKS

The application is subject to a restriction requirement. The Examiner requires restriction among the species of the claimed invention as shown in claims 1-57.

The Examiner has restricted the invention under 35 U.S.C. §121 into the following groups:

Group I. Claims 1-44, and 56-57, drawn to a method for treatment of lignin-containing material.

Group II. Claims 45-55, drawn to a product.

Applicants elect to prosecute Group I, claims 1-44, and 56-57. Claims 45-55 are canceled

Furthermore, the Examiner alleges that the claims are directed towards the following distinct species:

Species A: a specific contact material from claims 4-7;

Species B: a specific anion component for claims 10, 11, 12, 14, 37, 38, 39, 41, 46, 47, 48, 50, 55;

Species C: a specific cation component for claims 15, 16, 42, 43, 51, 52;

Species D: a specific ionic liquid for claims 17, 44, 53, 54; and

Species E: a specific lignin-containing material for claim 22.

For Species A, Applicants elect a specific contact material of “single species of ionic liquid” as set forth in claim 4.

For Species B, Applicants elect a specific anion component of a “substituted phenyl organic acid anion” as set forth in claim 10.

For Species C, Applicants elect a specific cation component of a “substituted imidazolium” as set forth in claim 15.

For Species D, Applicants elect a specific ionic liquid of a “substituted imidazolium of a substituted aryl sulfonate” as set forth in claim 17.

For Species E, Applicants elect a specific lignin-containing material of a “lignocellulosic residue of sugar” as set forth in claim 22.

Claim 29 has been amended for a typographical error. Claim 56 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 45. Claims 58-60 have been added. No new matter is introduced with these claim amendments. Entry of the claim amendments is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-4, 9-13, 15-40, 42-44, and 56-59 read on the above elections. Applicants respectfully submit that any of the claims that are directed to a non-elected species depend from generic claims. Upon indication of allowance of the generic claims, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the claims directed towards the non-elected species.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-2461. Such authorization includes authorization to charge fees for extensions of time, if any, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 and also should be treated as a constructive petition for an extension of time in this reply or any future reply pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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